

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested. After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 15-62 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added.¹

By way of summary, the Office Action presented the following issues: the Office objected to Claims 15, 19, 33-34, 41, and 45 as containing informalities; Claims 18-21, 28-37, 44-47, and 54-59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 40 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter; Claims 15-29 and 34-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tajima et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2004/0193717 A1, hereinafter "Tajima") in view of Iriyama et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2004/0160630 A1, hereinafter "Iriyama"); and Claims 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tajima in view of Iriyama and Kawaura et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2004/0239975 A1, hereinafter "Kawaura").

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office objected to Claims 15, 19, 33-34, 41, and 45 as containing informalities. Applicants have amended those claims to adopt Examiner Rust's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objections to Claims 15, 19, 33-34, 41, and 45.

¹ The amendments to independent Claims 15, 34, 38, 40-41, 56, 60, and 62 find support at least in Figure 69 and in its accompanying text in the specification.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 18-21, 28-37, 44-47, and 54-59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Although it is believed that those claims are sufficiently definite as written, Applicants have amended Claims 18, 28, 34, 36, 44, 54, and 58, to address the phrases noted by the Office.

With regard to Claims 19, 30-33, and 45, the Office is reminded,

The examiner's focus during examination of claims for compliance with the requirement for definiteness of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is whether the claim meets the threshold requirements of clarity and precision, not whether more suitable language or modes of expression are available. . . . Some latitude in the manner of expression and the aptness of terms should be permitted even though the claim language is not as precise as the examiner might desire. Examiners are encouraged to suggest claim language to applicants to improve the clarity or precision of the language used, but should not reject claims or insist on their own preferences if other modes of expression selected by applicants satisfy the statutory requirement.²

Should clarification of Claims 19, 30-33, and 45 be deemed necessary, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below-listed telephone number.

With regard to Claim 56, it is respectfully submitted that that claim does not include the phrase with which the Office took issue.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 18-21, 28-37, 44-47, and 54-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

² MPEP § 2173.02.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Independent Claims 40 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended those claims to recite a computer-readable storage medium consistent with In re Nuijten. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 40 and 62 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.³

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15-29 and 34-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tajima in view of Iriyama. In light of the several grounds of rejection on the merits, independent Claims 15, 34, 38, 40-41, 56, 60, and 62 have been amended to clarify the claimed inventions and to thereby more clearly patentably define over the applied references.

Amended Claim 15 recites a system, including, in part, an image handling apparatus and an external processing apparatus,

the external processing apparatus sending a screen update instruction request to the image handling apparatus during the image handling process, wherein

the image handling apparatus comprises . . .

an interface that, when the image handling apparatus receives the screen update instruction request, sends a request to the external processing apparatus to update a graphical interface.

Applicants respectfully submit that Tajima and Iriyama fail to disclose or suggest those features.

Tajima concerns a service processing apparatus. The Office conceded that “Tajima does not disclose said external processing apparatus comprises a controlling part conducting

³ No. 2006-1371 (Fed. Cir. Sept. 20 2007).

at least a part of an image handling process”⁴ It is respectfully submitted that Tajima fails to disclose or suggest the features of “the external processing apparatus sending a screen update instruction request to the image handling apparatus during the image handling process, wherein the image handling apparatus comprises . . . an interface that, when the image handling apparatus receives the screen update instruction request, sends a request to the external processing apparatus to update a graphical interface,” as recited in amended Claim 15.

Iriyama concerns an image printing system, in which “The digital copying machine 1 displays the names of image processing functions . . . on the basis of the image processes listed in the image processing program list received from the PC server 3”⁵ It is respectfully submitted that Iriyama is silent with regard to the features of “the external processing apparatus sending a screen update instruction request to the image handling apparatus during the image handling process, wherein the image handling apparatus comprises . . . an interface that, when the image handling apparatus receives the screen update instruction request, sends a request to the external processing apparatus to update a graphical interface,” as recited in amended Claim 15.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Tajima and Iriyama, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the features of “the external processing apparatus sending a screen update instruction request to the image handling apparatus during the image handling process, wherein the image handling apparatus comprises . . . an interface that, when the image handling apparatus receives the screen update instruction request, sends a request to the external processing apparatus to update a graphical interface,” as recited in amended Claim 15.

⁴ Office Action at 10.

⁵ Iriyama, para. [0072].

Applicants therefore submit that independent Claim 15 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over any proper combination of Tajima and Iriyama for at least the reasons discussed above.

Applicants additionally submit that independent Claims 34, 38, 40-41, 56, 60, and 62 (and all associated dependent claims) are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 15.

Further, regarding dependent Claims 30-33, it is respectfully submitted that Kawaura fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies in Tajima and Iriyama with regard to Claim 15. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of dependent Claims 30-33 is moot.

CONCLUSION

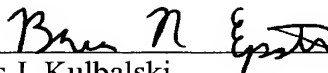
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is patentably distinguished over the cited art and is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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